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Paper
November 6, 1991

Secretary of State James A. Baker III, Class of '52
The United States State Department
Washington, D.C.

Dear Secretary of State Baker:

I am writing to appeal to you for assistance in allowing my family to emigrate from China. Although I deeply missed my family during the ten months I was underground in China and during my period of exile in Princeton, I did not want to trouble the U.S. government with a request for assistance, despite assurances given to me by Vice President Dan Quayle during our meeting of June 5, 1990.

This September my mother passed away. Because I was commander-in-chief of the Chinese democracy movement in Tiananmen Square and was placed on the most wanted list, my family was watched day and night during my time underground. My mother was unable to find a job when she wanted to retire from the army. Her fears and worries for me and the harassment my family suffered because of my democracy activities led to her untimely death. The exact circumstances surrounding her death are still unknown.

As the eldest daughter, I have a responsibility to assist my father and younger brother and sister at this difficult time. Because of my mother's death and my continued exile, my father has only half his family left and I am afraid for his health as well. Because of my work with the democracy movement, my father lost his job as the president of a military hospital in Shandong. I am worried about his health, and want him to come to the United States. I know he won't leave behind my sister, a student in medical school in Jinan, and my brother, a student of English in Shanghai - none of whom have suitable travel documents.

Therefore, I hope you will ask the Chinese government to give my family passports and allow them to come to the United States, where I am an MPA student at the Woodrow Wilson School of Princeton University. I have already lost my mother, and I want to see my father while he is still alive.

Thank you for your help during this time of personal sorrow.

Yours sincerely,

Chai Ling

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